



LA LETTRE

Official Newsletter of the HNDL - Lourdes



Our mission is precious

Dear friends, Brothers and Sisters in Hospitalité,

In this season of Lent, time of preparation for the celebration of Easter, we also prepare ourselves for the joy of Service, for Palm Sunday was for us, traditionally, the day on which we started our season.

The tense and worrying health situation in France and neighbouring countries, the low number of hospitaliers and stagiaires currently expected, the maintenance indefinitely of the 6pm curfew which will permanently raise the problem of dinner in the self-service restaurant, have led me, in agreement with the *Bureau* (the HNDL Executive), to postpone the opening date of the HNDL season, scheduled for March 26th.

I remain hopeful of being able to reopen three weeks later i.e. on **Friday April 16th**.

But our intention is clear. As soon as possible, the HNDL must be ready to fulfill its mission of welcoming pilgrims and especially sick pilgrims.

Our mission is precious.

A reminder that in article 7 of the Statutes of the Sanctuary (available on the Sanctuary website), promulgated on February 11th 2021 by Monsignor Éric de Moulins-Beaufort, Archbishop of Reims and President of the Conference of Bishops of France : *Extracts from article 7 : Mission*

.../...This mission of welcome is carried out primarily for the sick and those disabled or weakened by life, in connection with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, diocesan hospitalities and accompanying hospitalities .../...

Our mission is precious. It is subject to several conditions, which we have assembled here :

Being ready means having, already defined, a strict health protocol in order to allow the reception of pilgrims in the best conditions of health & safety.

Being ready means having at our disposal the necessary means for accommodating hospitaliers (opening of services, accommodation and canteen) and for the formation & training of stagiaires.

Being ready to go out to meet, and really be of service to, the pilgrims and the Sanctuary.

Being ready, means finally and above all responding to the invitation of the Virgin Mary :

« Would you be so kind as to come her for fifteen days? »

With all my friendship and the assurance of my total dedication

Daniel PEZET

President of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes

“MORAL REPORT” ON 2020 (EXTRACTS)

Dear friends, brothers & sisters in Hospitalité.

My Report can be summed up as follows: the mission has not changed, but our view of it has been renewed. Do I have any reason to worry? **Yes**, my concerns are economic. I worry about our finances, I worry about our seasonal employees.

1) A renewed look

It is often said that crises and trials can portend **a superb renewal**.

But in this tragedy, we can find Hope. In 2020, we have witnessed such beautiful things... What are the lessons of 2020 ?

I miss my brother and sister Hospitalliers from other countries ...

I am available. I am a servant.

There are no sick people, so there's no need for hospitalliers ???

That's false.

The absence of sick pilgrims does not mean that the Sanctuary does not need Hospitalliers.

I am also a pilgrim ...

Above all, it is an opportunity to deepen my spirituality through prayer, the Word of God and the sacraments.

Be aware of the limits of our missions

Our mission must never replace that of paid employees. Our mission is to welcome pilgrims and especially sick pilgrims. Any other mission, including hospitality, would be neither fair, moral or legal.

Gestures of generosity every day, donations and messages.

We are not alone. There are many messages of support from hospitalliers who cannot come to Lourdes. For all of us, it's a real heartbreak...

The Fountains and the Chapels of Light

These too are places of welcome. Whether it is the fountains near the Grotto, the water taps near the Gave, but also the Chapels of Light : these are places where we can meet pilgrims or visitors.

Our mission : is to welcome the poorest. Those who are poor in health but also those poor in the Gospel.

2) Economic difficulties

The Financial Report presents a very large and even worrying deficit for the financial year 2020.

It is surmountable, but we must draw from it certain consequences for 2021.

Activity relating to accommodation is systematically in deficit.

We will not open accommodation centres and the self-service canteen "at a loss" (beginning and end of season). Only one place of accommodation will be opened and only when that is full will the opening of a second building be justified.

I would ask you to :

Show preference for the accommodation provided by your association;

Make a point of cancelling your room reservations if it becomes impossible for you to travel;

Pay your dues (*cotisation*) even if you are prevented from coming to Lourdes.

Conclusion : In 2020 our encounters were numerous and beautiful. The same will be true in 2021.

All it takes is for you to come to Lourdes. Hope, Faith, trust and love of God will combine to enable us to fulfill our mission of welcome. So dear friends, as Our Lord reminds us in the Gospel of St Luke :

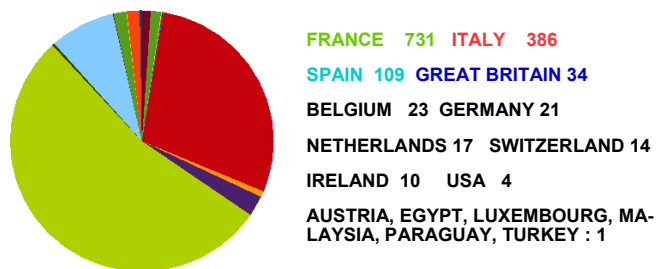
« Let us remain dressed for service with our belts done up and our lamps lit ».



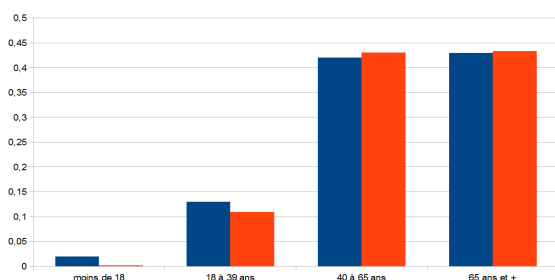
REPORT ON ACTIVITY IN 2020.

1 – Attendance.

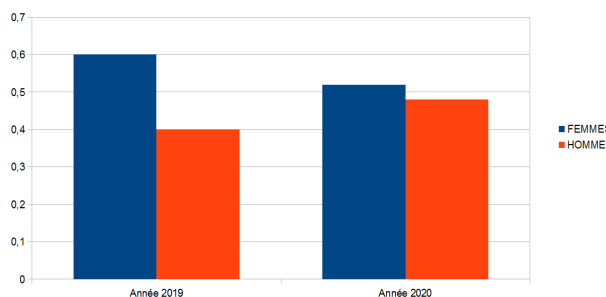
Global 16,5% of that in 2019 ; Formation 20% of 2019, Engagements 17% of 2019.



POURCENTAGE PAR ÂGE



REPARTITION FEMMES/HOMMES



The Baths closed at the end of February but a new version of the «Gesture of Water » (*Geste de l'Eau*) was offered from July 24th onwards.

The St. John the Baptist service was able to welcome 46,000 pilgrims until October 28th.

We were able to see 1,400 motivated hospitaliers, who adapted to the circumstances, happy to have served, happy to have continued their formation, happy to have been able to get involved.

2 – Our missions in 2020.

WELCOME, HELP WITH PRAYER, WELCOME AT THE FOUNTAINS, GESTURE OF WATER, SERVICE IN THE ACCUEILS, COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH MEASURES



3 – SAS HNDL Transport. Activity = 0 ; a Mercedes bus was ordered for delivery in April.

4 – Accommodation. Difficulties in day to day running : Two major water leaks, room bookings missed but not cancelled, restrictive health & safety measures.

Major efforts in upgrading fire safety and in maintenance of boilers. Several planned operations postponed for budgetary reasons.

5 – The Sanctuary Health Charter. Health measures respected within the Hospitalité.

The Hospitalité will incorporate the Sanctuary's 2021 Health Charter into its activities.

6 – Relations with the Sanctuary. Permanent liaisons established, participation in the Rector's Council and the Covid 19 watch cell. Technical cooperation in areas such as fire or communication.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020 (EXTRACTS)

The Hospitalet Notre Dame de Lourdes experienced a large deficit in 2020 (- 648,000 euros). This was due to the late opening of the Hospitalet (June 9th 2020), the small number of hospitaliers who came in service in 2020 (six times fewer than the previous year : 1350 instead of 8500) and the non-payment of *cotisations* or subscriptions (48,000 euros instead of the 146,000 expected ...).

Revenues 2020

(en K€)	2020	2019	Variations
CA	220	1 723	-1 503
RAP & TDC	92	158	-66
COTISATIONS	48	146	-98
DONS & LEGS	135	174	-39
TOTAL	495	2 201	-1 706

Operating expenses 2021

(en K€)	2020	2019	Variations
ACHATS	56	410	-354
FRAIS GENERAUX	432	665	-233
IMPOTS & TAXES	50	79	-29
PERSONNEL	259	559	-300
DOT AMORT & PROV	383	413	-30
TOTAL	1 180	2 126	-946

RPD : Recovery of Provision for Depreciation

Revenue was eight times lower than in 2019 whilst operating expenses merely halved.

In fact it is impossible to reduce fixed expenses (taxes, salaries, maintenance contracts, etc.) in the same proportions.

Results 2020

(en K€)	2020	2019	Variations
RESULTAT EXPLOIT	-683	+71	-754
RESULTAT FINANC	-31	-38	+8
RESULTAT EXCEPTIO	+68	-273	-285
IMPOT SOCIETES	-2	-3	+1
RESULTAT NET	-648	-243	-287

Budget 2021

	Bud 2021	Réal 2020	ECART
RECETTES	+ 802	+ 650	+ 152
DEPENSES	- 1276	- 1 298	+ 22
RESULTAT	- 474	- 648	+ 174

The forecast budget for 2021 has been set on a reasonably optimistic basis

The increase in revenue anticipates higher attendance, payment of subscriptions at 125,000 euros, a bequest of 45,000 euros and income from the State Solidarity Fund at a minimum of 38,000 euros.

The maintenance of expenditure can be explained by an increase in purchases (linked to the increase in attendance), a decrease in staff costs due to the partial furloughing of employees on permanent contracts, the non-use of short-term contracts at the beginning of the financial year, and a slight decrease in overheads.

	Translation		Translation		Translation		Translation
Chiffres d'affaires	Turnover	Achats	Purchases	Résultat exploitation	Operating income	Recettes	Receipts
RAP et TDC	RPD and ToC (1)	Frais généraux	General expenses	Résultat financier	Financial result	Dépenses	Expenses
Cotisations	cotisations	Impôts et taxes	Taxes	Résultat exceptionnel	Exceptional result	Résultat	Result
Dons et legs	donations	Personnel	Personnel	Impôt société	Corporate tax		
Total	Total	Dotation amortissement et provisions	Provision for Depreciation	Résultat net	Net income		
		Total	Total				

(1) RPD : Recovery of Provision for Depreciation

ToC : Transfer of Charges.

COTISATIONS (SUBSCRIPTIONS)

A recent discussion on social media has highlighted the need to clarify the rules to be applied concerning the collection of *cotisations*, our annual dues.

What are *cotisations* for ?

They exist for several reasons :

They allow those who pay to benefit from insurance cover during the exercise of their activities within the association.

They help the association to function, finance its actions in carrying out its mission and facilitate the stays of its members in Lourdes.

They provide those who pay with a way of demonstrating their willingness to belong to the association.

Who must pay *cotisations* ?

Extract from the Statutes of 2009 : article 7 : « With the exception of *de facto* members and honorary members, all members of the association contribute to the material life of the association by paying a contribution, the amount of which is set annually by the Administrative Council. »

Thus general rule is currently put into practice as follows :

For full members (or *titulaires*) and associate members, payment is due every year. In the event that the person has not come to Lourdes one year, and has not paid his dues, the overdue contribution will be expected with that of the following year.

In cases where a full or associate member does not come in service to Lourdes for several years in a row and does not pay their *cotisation* during that time, upon return to service, they will be asked to pay at least the required amount for the current year and the previous year, and they are free to make a larger contribution towards catching up if they so wish.

For stagiaires still in Formation (known in French as *membres sympathisants*) and auxiliary members (those in their 5th year or more of service who have not made their *engagement* commitment): the *cotisation* is due before they enter service on stage for the year. In the event of an interruption between two years of stage, payment of *cotisations* for the missed years is at the discretion of the individual.

When and how can one pay the *cotisation* ?

The amount due must be paid at the latest on site before the start of one's service or formation. This is imperative : **No *cotisation* = no stage**. Payment can be made on site by credit card or by cheque or cash (in euros).

Full and associate members are invited to pay their dues without waiting to arrive in Lourdes, by using the possibilities offered by PayPal (*) (advisable for payment from abroad), by making a bank transfer, by sending a cheque (from an account in euros) or, for UK taxpayers, by taking advantage of the British Hospitalité Trust (*) .

Already more and more hospitaliers are using the PayPal method and paying their dues at the beginning of the year

(*) Paypal

<http://hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com/fr/faire-un-don-5.html>

(*) British Hospitalité Trust

<http://britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk>

(*) Paypal

<http://hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com/fr/faire-un-don-5.html>

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BIC-ADRESSE SWIFT: SOGEFRPP

PORTRAITS OF TWO PRIESTS WHO CALL ON THE HOSPITALITE NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES

One is a Latin Catholic, chaplain to the Paratroop Regiment in Pau. He regularly drives young soldiers in their initial training to Lourdes to discover the Sanctuary, pray at the Grotto and go to the Baths. Coming from very diverse faiths, spiritualities and horizons, they experience in Lourdes a moment of full communion before setting off on their first mission where they will risk their lives so that peace in our world is safeguarded to the best of their ability.

The other is a Melkite Catholic, a chaplain in a school. Originally from southern Lebanon, the civil war drove him and his family to Beirut, where they took refuge. In 1997, he answered his bishop's call and left for Aleppo in Syria. Working for peace between men, he organized several pilgrimages which passed through Lourdes and brought together Lebanese and Syrian Christians. The war caught up with him in March 2011 but did not call into question his desire, on the way back from the World Youth Days in Madrid, to introduce more than 200 young Syrians to the Sanctuary. A few months later, he was seriously injured by a rocket explosion. Despite abominable living conditions, he chooses, since God has placed him there, to continue to live among the inhabitants of Aleppo surrounded by Daesh.

The first accompanies soldiers on their perilous mission in the field.

The second lives on the ground with those who inhabit the middle of a war zone.

Both are well versed in the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes and call upon its services each time they come to the Sanctuary.



1/ IN YOUR DAILY LIFE YOU SHOW BOUNDLESS CHARITY AND COURAGE WHAT DOES YOUR FAITH IN THE VIRGIN MARY BRING YOU IN THIS CHAOS ?

Abouna Imad : My whole life is dedicated to the Virgin, Mother of God. It is she who guides my journey, my faith. How could she not be my pillar in these particular circumstances; certainly less deadly today now that the cessation fighting has ceased but still very difficult because of poverty.

She's the one who gives me the courage to go to my neighbour, to support him, to confront with him his problems.

Father Bertrand : To come to Lourdes, as I so often do with our young paratroopers, is to experience a meeting with the One who, one day, asked Bernadette to come here in procession. So we are merely responding to that invitation from Heaven. As a military chaplain, I am aware that I am simply a small intermediary between the Mother who invites us to Lourdes and the children we are.

We never leave disappointed. Something has happened in the hearts of everyone that only God knows.

2/ WHAT MEMORY OF THE GROTTO OF LOURDES ACCOMPANIES YOU THROUGH THE MOST DIFFICULT TIMES ?

Father Bertrand : The grotto of Massabielle is this place of encounter, of intimacy. Mary is still there in the hollow of the rock. She looks at us, invites us to prayer. What we experience there is always immense peace, indescribable.

Abouna Imad : Going to the Grotto seemed to me a dream that had come true thanks to Mary. In my difficult times, I always think of the Virgin who appeared to Bernadette and allowed her to brave her fear by always being with her. In my moments of suffering, I imagine myself in Bernadette's place, begging with faith for graces from Mary.

3/ HUMAN BEINGS CAN CONFRONT EACH OTHER IN THEIR LIVES AND FAITHS TO THE POINT OF DEATH AND EVEN TO THE POINT OF KILLING. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO THEM ?

Abouna Imad : During the war and the fighting, Daesch forced people to convert to Islam. But in all faith, I told them that the Virgin will always be present, that she would never abandon them, that they may trust in her.



When I was badly wounded and nearly dead, I always had faith that Mary was carrying me in her arms and was going to heal me. Even if death had struck me, I was sure and certain that the Virgin was by my side.

Father Bertrand : Lourdes is a beautiful school for life. Bernadette, like all of us, experienced suffering and death in her life. In that fragility inherent in our human condition, it reminds us that we are not alone, that Mary accompanies us every day, praying for us until the hour of our death.

Thrown into a dangerous theatre of operation and staring death in the face, the paratrooper, inwardly, can take refuge in the grotto of Lourdes, to ask for strength and courage from the One who never forgets her children

4/ IS PARADISE IRREMEDIABLY IN HEAVEN AND NOT ON EARTH ?

Father Bertrand : *"I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other,"* Mary tells us in Lourdes. What is this other world that Mary speaks to us about, if not that world of Heaven, of love to which we all aspire.

It is good to say that Heaven is already among us. It is a reality already existing in and around us and at the same time a reality to come when we will all be in God i.e. in Love. It is up to everyone to want it, to commit themselves to it by entering, day after day, in a path of conversion. May Mary help us by praying for the sinners we are and by taking us by the hand.

Abouna Imad Earth is as much the way to paradise as it is to hell. It is up to man to choose the road he wants. He who believes in Mary, who entrusts her with all his problems, who follows her example must have no doubt. He walks on the path that will lead him to Heaven because Mary embodies Heaven.

Le Reliquary of Saint Bernadette

The body of Bernadette SOUBIROUS was exhumed on April 18th 1925, forty-six years after her death, in order to collect relics

This operation was entrusted to Doctors COMTE and TALON. The former proceeded to take samples from the body, which *"was of a soft and almost normal consistency,"* as he was to write in 1928 in the *Bulletin of the Medical Association of Our Lady of Lourdes*.

On **June 14th 1925**, Pius XI proclaimed Bernadette SOUBIROUS "Blessed." Her body was then transferred to its current shrine in Nevers on **July 18th 1925**.

On **December 8th 1933**, Pope Pius XI canonised Saint Bernadette and her feast day is celebrated by the Church in France on **February 18th**.

The "Original Acts," preserved in the Nevers Archives and written in Latin, indicate that some hair and fragments of bone and skin were taken for relics.

The preservation and attribution of these relics are entrusted to the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, under the watchful eye of the Bishop of Nevers.

These relics were offered, in the form of fragments *ex-carne* plots or *ex-ossibus*, by the Sisters of Nevers, to various houses of their Congregation.



The relic in the reliquary, which is journeying around France and abroad, is an *ex-carne* relic, given to the Congregation of Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception (Fathers of Garaison), founded in 1836. Since 1866, it is this congregation which has run the Sanctuary of Lourdes, at the initial request of Bishop Laurence of Tarbes. In 2018, the Very Reverend Father Horacio BRITO, Superior General of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception entrusted this relic to the Sanctuary of Lourdes. It can now be found in the reliquary made in Spain by the Granda workshops.

This reliquary was solemnly inaugurated in Lourdes on **May 30th 2019**.



« The Lord has taken them by the hand »

Service Notre Dame

Anna **LYONS**
 Monique **CAZADE**
 Marie-Ange **HERVOUET**
 Peggy **BRETT**
 Marie-Thérèse **PAVIS**, mother and mother-in-law of Marie-Annick and Daniel **PEZET**
 The husband of Bernadette **MCCORMACK**
 The mother of Mary Isabella **BROOKER**

Service Saint Jean Baptiste

Carol **SNEE**
 Balda **de SUZANNET**
 The husband of Béatrice **MAUREAU**
 The husband of Marie-Monique **PETIT**

Service Saint Frai

Nicole **VAN BELLE**
 Elisabeth **O'DONNEL**
 Monique **CANOURGUE**
 The brother of Jacintha **HETHERINGTON**

Service Sainte Bernadette

Marie-Assunta **von KETTELER**
 Francisco Javier **URRA BERRIO**
 Angela **BERGSTROM ALLEN**
 Anna **MAJANI**
 The father of Bénédicte **LAVIE**

Service Saint Michel

Yves **PACREAU**

Service Saint Joseph

Karl Heinz **KEMPEN**
 Michel **ROUGER**
 Jean-Paul **REVERSEAU**
 Michael **MC MAHON**
 Jacob **CONROY**
 David **HASSLACHER**
 John **CAULFIELD**
 Vincenzo **CUSIMANO** (of the Foulard Blanc scouting fraternity)
 Jacques **DORSI**
 Guido **SCIUCCA**
 Franco **MORETTI**
 Kenneth **THEYS**
 Jean **BIGNARDI**
 Mario **MADDALENA**
 Thomas **KEARNEY**
 Jean **HORNESCH**
 Jacob **CONROY**
 Joseph **BOUCHET**
 José María **LOPEZ GARCIA**
 Terence **O'SULLIVAN**
 Bruno **BUCCOMINO**
 Jean-Pierre **ROSE**
 The father of Xavier **DECOOPMAN**
 The mother of Jean-Pierre **MANGIN**